

## A PERSONAL LETTER.

To the ministers and clerks of the churches composing the State District of Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia:—Our experience at the late State Conference as chairman of the Committee on Parochial Reports, impressed me with the importance of more system and accuracy in keeping the records of the work of the churches. Most of the reports at the late conference were made upon the floor of conference from memory, and were, at best, but approximately correct. For practical purposes that sufficed, but it was unbusiness like and should be avoided in the future.

The conference made me chairman of the same committee for the current year, and I am more than anxious to have the reports all prepared from specific data, taken directly from the church records, and duly signed by the clerks, as the late conference directed, and they should be placed in my hands as soon after the 1st of April, the close of the conference year as possible, so that they could be properly tabulated. If this communication should meet the eye of Dr. U. M. Richard, of Fairplay, Washington Co., Maryland, I suggest that he send blank reports to the ministers, belonging to the conference, or let each minister write him for blanks.

It would facilitate the proper performance of this work if each minister would keep a small pocket memorandum book always at hand to note items of record and at convenient times have them transcribed by the clerk into the church book.

I am convinced that the financial statement in the late reports were below the sums expended by the churches. This is true at least as it refers to this end of the district. Our membership reported from S. W. Virginia was below the actual estimate, at least, fifty members.

Most of those who directed the work of the conference have heretofore had meagre experience in preparing statistical reports and this accounts for the awkwardness in their preparation and their general inaccuracy.

A matter of importance which I was desirous of having action upon at the conference, passed unnoticed, and that was to instruct all the pastors to have stated services for the special consideration of the various enterprises of the churches.

For example at least one day in each year at each appointment should be devoted to the cause of missions, and one to church literature, and one to Sunday-schools, etc. Let the pastors of the churches act on the suggestion if they deem them of sufficient weight.

The outlook in Virginia and Maryland inspires the most sanguine hopes of success in the establishment of churches within our limits and it behooves us to lay the foundations deep and to preserve the records in systematic style so as to enable us to note such mistakes as may and will occur and profit thereby. This section of the district has grown from about twenty-five members to 350 within the last four years and our work is just beginning to acquire sufficient momentum to assure great results in the years to come.

D. C. MOOMAW.

## FROM LOUISVILLE, OHIO.

Dr. McGregor has been called to the pastorate of the Progressive Brethren church of Louisville. The doctor began his prstorate with us Sunday, May 17th. Last Sunday night he preached to the G. A. R. in our church on the topic, "Phil. Sheridan, the Cavalry Prince of America." The other churches gave up their services. The crowded house, and the great enthusiasm was a fine testimonial to Dr. McGregor. His sermon was a great treat.

The doctor has been preaching in Canton the last three or four months. His sermons made a great impression. His church became so crowded many could not get in. The committee secured the use of the tabernacle, the largest auditorium in the city, where from ten to eighteen hundred people listened to him. The doctor is a spiritual consecrated man, and we believe his genial way and pulpit ability will build up the cause in our midst.

JOHN KEIM.

## BOSTON.

There is an interesting story connected with the name Boston. The city which first received the name was situated in Lincolnshire, England. Boston, Mass., was the namesake of the English town, being named in loving remembrance by John Cotton when he came to the New World in early colonial days.

In the seventh century, the story runs, a monk called St. Botolph founded a church on the site of the original Boston. It was first known as Botolph's Town, then as time passed on Botolphston, then Bostaston, and finally it became shortened to Boston. The old city lost much of its ancient importance, but its namesake in America still perpetuates the name, though few people know the origin of it.

The monk, St. Botolph, has been dead these many centuries.—*The Morning Star*.

"OBEDIENCE to God is the best self-defense anyone can make."

## FROM NICKERSON, KAN.

The Brethren church at Nickerson has enjoyed a short series of meetings. Brother A. J. Hixson came to us May 22, and remained with us until May 30. Preached nine soul-stirring sermons. Attendance was small, but Brother Hixson declared his message with the same power of spirit and apparent enthusiasm as if he were preaching to a crowded house. On Wednesday, 27, we went to the water (about five miles,) and two were baptized into the names of the blessed trinity. This baptismal scene was to me a most happy and solemn season, as the applicants were my two oldest daughters, aged respectively 16 and 13 years. We do hope and pray that God will ever bless and keep them faithful and make them efficient servants in the church of God. Our little band at Nickerson has many disadvantages, few in number, poor in this world's goods, have our meetings and Sunday-school in a rented school-room in the city. Have not the associations and encouragements for young people we would like to have, yet our Sunday-school is prosperous, and this year a few have been added to our membership. We are in a good country, and invite those seeking a home in the west to come among us and we will do you good.

JACOB W. BEER.

## FROM KUNKLE, O.

On June 8, Bethesda held a very interesting and well attended communion. A. Shew of Sherwood, O., and H. Kiser of Butler, Ind., assisted our pastor D. M. Rittenhouse in the services. Quite a few from a distance were present. Forty-eight communicants were counted.

The S. S. C. E. held her first meeting May 24, conducted by the president. For the first time the exercises were very interesting. To all those who can devote some time to writing an essay or commit a declamation to memory or take part in some way, these services are very strengthening. The young seek amusement somewhere. His mind never stands still, but is at all times going out in some direction. The Endeavor furnishes enough innocent entertainment to keep him from sinful allurements to which nearly all are enticed. It furnishes thought and habit that will act as a safeguard through life, and keeps out bad thought and habit which prove destructive in after life. Let us while we are yet young fill our minds with good and useful thoughts and acquire good habits, lay the foundation, that in after years we may reap a glorious harvest.

ADAM EBERLY.